representation received with respect to classification of the industry/ unit in order to ensure that non-polluting industries do not suffer.

Sewage treatment plants in metropolis

2177. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many sewage treatment plants are presently operating in metropolitan cities in India;

(b) what methodology is being adopted to dispose off the sludge formed during the treatment of sewage in these treatment plants; and

(c) how many sewage drains are directly opening into the Yamuna River in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There are 23 metropolitan cities in India as per 1991 census. Out of 23 metro cities, sewage treatment plants exist in 16 cities only. There are 46 sewage treatment plants in operation in these 16 metro cities.

(b) The sludge generated in sewage treatment plants is dried in sludge drying beds and used for application in agricultural fields and for horticulture purpose as manure. It is also used for filling of low lying areas and sold to public.

(c) There are a total of 17 drains directly opening in Yamuna in Delhi.

Sewage drainage into seven rivers in M.P.

2178. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken been under Seven Rivers Action Plan for Madhya Pradesh to minimise the drainage of sewage pipes directly into the seven rivers covered under the Central Plan; and

(b) how many sewage drains are opening directly into these seven rivers, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A scheme of pollution abatement of seven rivers

in 11 towns of Madhya Pradesh has been approved at a cost of Rs. 101.2 crore under the National River Conservation Plan. Works such as interception, diversion and treatment of sewage flowing into the river, low cost toilets, crematoria, river front development, afforestation and public participation are covered under this scheme. Till date, 53 projects have been sanctioned under this Plan in Madhya Pradesh at a cost of Rs. 43.40 crore. Out of these, 27 projects have been completed. An amount of Rs. 28.10 crore has been released to the State Government for these works so far.

(b) As on date, a total of 189 drains are opening directly into these seven rivers located in the 11 towns.

Dumping grounds for toxic products

2179. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the world is getting rid of the toxic products, Government are promoting the waste incineration through special subsidies and the country is fast becoming the dumping ground for the world's most toxic products;

(b) whether it is also a fact that while the world over chemicals have been banned, these are being still used in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to prevent the country from becoming a dumping grounds for toxic products?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There are no subsidies for promoting incineration of toxic wastes in the country. In respect of energy recovery from municipal solid wastes and industrial wastes, there is a scheme under the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources (MNES) of the Government of India, which provides for subsidy on term loan to reduce the interest rate to 7.5% subject to a ceiling per megawatt of electricity generated of Rs. 2.00 crores in respect of urban waste projects and Rs. 1.50 crores in respect of Industrial waste projects. This scheme applies to all municipal solid wastes and industrial wastes conversion technologies such as biomethanation, pelletisation,